

Appl. No. 10/766,738
Amdt. dated August 21, 2008
Reply to Office Action of June 2, 2008

REMARKS

A. 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the Office Action mailed on June 2, 2008, claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hunt et al. Claim 9 is being canceled. Accordingly, the rejection is rendered moot and should be withdrawn.

B. Claims 1-8, 10-12 and 14

Applicant notes with appreciation that claims 1-8, 10-12 and 14 have been allowed.

C. Claim 13

Applicant notes with appreciation that claim 13 has been indicated to contain allowable subject matter. Claim 13 has been amended so as to be in independent form. To the extent the amendments to claim 13 incorporate subject matter that was inherently present in the previous version of claim 13, the amendments are not being made for reasons related to patentability. *See, Festo Corporation v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co., Ltd*, 535 U.S. 722 (2002).

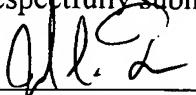
CONCLUSION

In view of the arguments above, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims 1-8 and 10-14 are in condition for allowance and seek an early allowance thereof. If for any reason, the Examiner is unable to allow the application in the next Office Action and believes that an interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining issues, he is respectfully

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requested to contact the undersigned attorney at (312) 321-4200.

Respectfully submitted,


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